

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 20, 2020

Ambassador Gregg Doud
Chief Agricultural Negotiator
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Doud,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the need to utilize agriculture as a tool to strengthen our partnerships overseas. While China is an important market for American goods, it is also increasingly a rival in other domains, actively working to undermine our interests and security. It is important we take measures to counter these efforts, and American agriculture is ready to go to great lengths to develop mutually beneficial economic and trade opportunities.

The United States is the world's leading agricultural producer, having leveraged research and technology to increase our output and productivity to unprecedented levels. As such, American agriculture should be used increasingly as a tool for supporting our engagement overseas. The development of new trade deals is not only vital for furthering partnership with other nations, it also has the capacity to stabilize food supply chains globally. The United States has an overabundance of high-quality food, and we need to ensure that it reaches those who need it most, regardless of location. Such actions will aid in building relationships, open markets, and promote food security. Importantly, it will also promote American farmers, who are the backbone of our country.

Trade deals that incorporate strong agricultural components should be actively sought after, aiding efforts to strengthen America vis-à-vis China. The United Kingdom highlights one current opportunity, with ample space for others existing throughout Latin America, Africa and South Asia, in addition to the European Union. Moreover, such actions will go a long way in demonstrating that the United States is a reliable, well-meaning partner, especially at a time when China has proven unreliable across sectors yet attempts to boost its image through its own coronavirus disinformation campaign, e.g. "mask" diplomacy.

I respectfully ask that you report and advise on how the United States could better use agriculture as a tool to open markets and secure trade deals with key allies and partners. It is important we utilize all the tools at our disposal as we look to counter China's growing influence, and American agriculture stands ready to do its part.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



James Comer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



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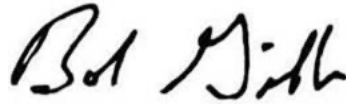
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